



Creating a Collaborative Space: *Going from Drab to Fab*

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Abstract

In 2017 the PA-PCOM library transformed a space into a dynamic collaborative laboratory, a.k.a. “Collab”. Steps taken to transform space included:

- new mobile furniture
- installation of 55” touchscreen
- computer and software
- new painting with accent wall
- creation of digital user guide and accessory kit.

Timeline

- Jun 2017: New furniture ordered and arrives
- Jul 2017: Touchscreen and equipment installed
- Dec 2017: User guide created for the collab
- Jan 2018: Accessory kit available at circulation desk
- Feb 2018: Collab space freshly painted

Space

The room was painted in February 2018 to further emphasize the transformation. The colors are consistent with other study rooms in Evans Hall.



Monitor and Computer

Users can connect to the monitor by:

- Logging in to the desktop connected to the monitor
- Use a cable to connect their laptop
- Use the Solstice app to connect wirelessly with their device



A kit was created to assist users connecting to the monitor. The kit includes:

- Wireless keyboard
- 3 different cables to connect a laptop
- Stylus pen
- Remotes to use the monitor and conferencing hardware

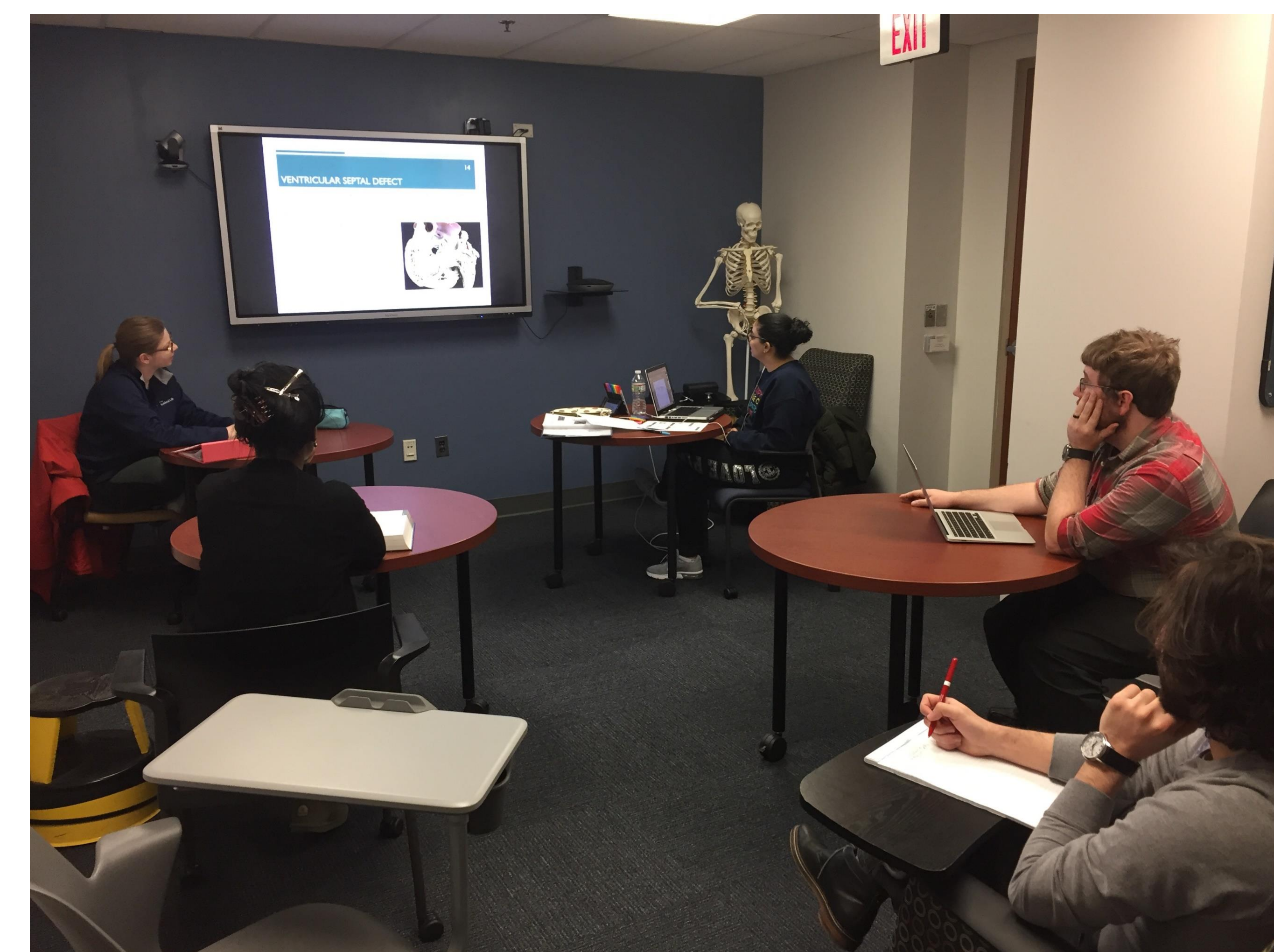
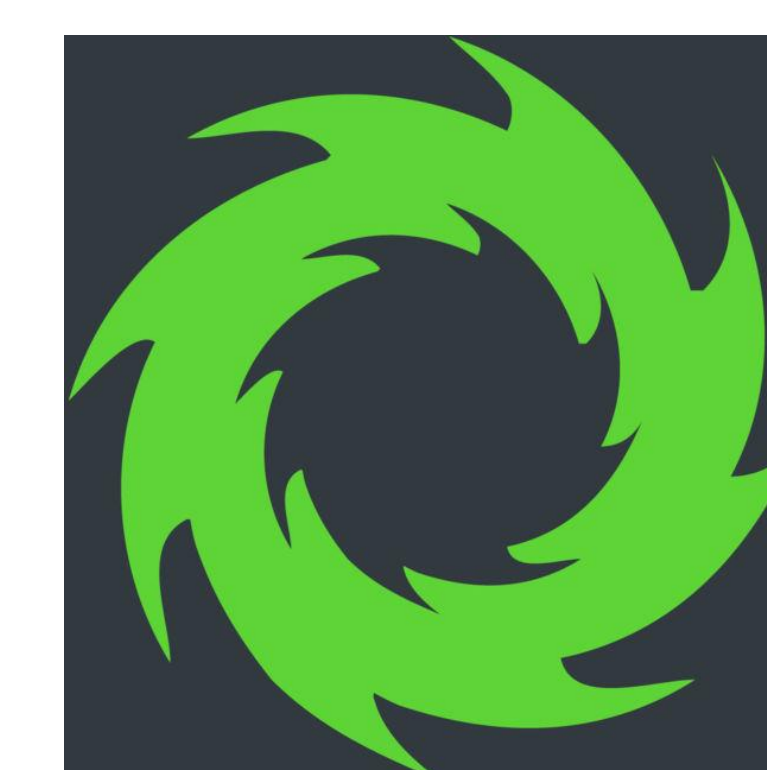
Furniture

New furniture was purchased in June of 2017 in order to make the space more flexible and adaptive. Mobile tables and chairs were purchased, replacing heavier, stationary furniture.



Programs included on the computer:

- Microsoft OneNote: touchscreen acts as whiteboard
- Solstice: allows patrons access from their devices
- Tableau: data visualization software
- Skype: web conferencing software



Results

Technology benefits are:

- Students study or work on group projects efficiently.
- Librarians deliver information literacy sessions in-house rather than book a competing classroom.
- Users are able to conduct virtual meetings thanks to the installed conference software.